3/27/72

Dear Js,

Having spent mostof the day working on papers for the old, long-delayed(never by me) helicopte suit, my nerves and emptions are not in the best shape for making sense, but I had a conversation with Stanley Karnow today that may interest you and part of one with Paul Valentine, who was called to go out on a story. I referred to the Karnow ITT-Chile story in an earlier note. Paul was stunned to find no mention of the Vogeler case in it because he had, as I knew, taken the trouble to check their morgue, found it loaded, and took that to the national desk (Dick Harwood). I'd called Harwood about something else the next day and he volunteered that he had it. Then they leave it out by not telling the guy who is writing a full page?

Karnow seems like a genuinely concerned man. He has talked to the foreign-relations committee people, will again, and has the impression that Fulbright's real intention is to use the proposed investigation against the administration. I think he'll lay an egg if he does, for on this Chile thing alone its record is better than that of the previous Demo. administrations. I think Karnow agrees, and I know he agrees that it makes no difference which party is in power.

He is surprised to find, as he seems to have, that no real work, no real study, has ever been made of the international corporate conglomerates. I was able to trace the begin - nings of American growth in this field to a degree for him from my experiences in intelligence. Among the leads I suggested he check out is the disappeared Pentagon microfilm, 25 rolls of it, of the documents captured on Mussolini and turned over to us by the partisans. They trusted us. I traced it to the Pentagon and thereafter could find no further trace. An economist I thenk knew also did, and I recalled his name. I reminded Karnow of the early background in this kind of thing in the munitions people and supplied some names of those who could give him early his ory from investigations the ppersonnel of which I knew. Lil, by the way, worked for another investigation when I met her and had volunteered to help the one I was on nights, which accounts for the meeting. So, if you have any knowledge or suggestions, I can pass them on. He wants us to keep in touch.

Harwood and Bradlee both have a thing on me because they did me dirt and because I was right, so Karnow using anything from me may be impossible. Those people actually seem to be the kind who would be afraid that at some time I might make a deal out of giving them something. The do seem that petty, although Dick offered me his hand the last time I saw him. As you may have discovered, it can be a curse to be right and an even bigger one to be prematurely right, and a supercollassal one when the biggies have flubbed or been conned. Incidently, part of the Ande son appearance on 60 minutes is rather good on how the working press gets taken in. I have often thought that reports were really more principled and their work more honest, if less erudite, when so many were drunks and so few had good educations. There is, for example, almost no real investigative reporting today. Everybody depends on a tip and then getting hand-fed. I hate to suggest it, but I also believe that improved conditions have made for poorer reporting and more of a willingness to accept policy determinations on news and to engage in self-censorship, which I regard as more sinister than the official.

Meanwhile, the most incredible allegations in the Beard part of the case continue unquestioned. I do not know if you have been following it, but there is no end to the contradictions, each reported straight, as though there had not been any earlier version by the same person and withought question about long silences by those who suddenly surface with important information. In all of it the gut shot is ignored, and I think that with the President a Republican it will continue that way. Checkers was a speech of current importance because of what he alleged in it about his financial condition, aside from its immediate, emotional purposes...Karnow doesn't know if he is to be kept on the story. Best,